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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,541	10/15/2003	Vito Cellini	C-0130.07	3490
41418	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTOPHER L. MAKAY 1634 MILAM BUILDING 115 EAST TRAVIS STREET SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205-1763			CARTAGENA, MELVIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3754	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3,716,170 to Mangels.

Mangels shows a chemical ejecting flash light as seen in Figs. 1-5, having a body defining a canister compartment 11, a flashlight compartment 12 and a flashlight head 13, a switch assembly 33, batteries 25, a nozzle at the end of a nozzle tube 61, a trigger assembly 68 wherein the trigger assembly and the switch assembly can be activated without changing grip on the body, a spray canister 26, a thumb activated safety 76 coupled to the trigger assembly, see column 5, lines 37-61, a trigger aperture 71, a nozzle pathway 60, the switch is connected to a positive and negative terminals 21 and 22, the switch assembly and trigger assembly have corresponding apertures in the housing and a switch cap 69, see Figs. 1 and 4.

With respect to the method claimed in claims 16-20 the device of Mangels performs the steps of gripping the housing with a thumb positioned on over a trigger, actuating the safety to actuate the trigger or operating the switch without changing grip on the housing, see column 5, lines 37-61.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 3,716,170 to Mangels in view of US 5,086,377 to Roberts.

Mangels shows all claimed features as discussed above except for a fluid tight seal between the flashlight compartment and the canister compartment. Roberts shows a defense baton and flashlight having housing 14 with a solid watertight wall between the flashlight compartment and the canister compartment, see Fig. 2. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Mangels to include a watertight seal between the flashlight compartment and the canister compartment as taught by Roberts to prevent any leak from the canister fluid to come in contact with the batteries and prevent premature failure of the batteries or even an explosion if the content of the canister is flammable.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the nozzle securable at a second end) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The nozzle of

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Mangels is secured to the body and located at the end of center line 41 while the flashlight head is secured to the body at the end of center line 40.

With respect to claim 3, the trigger aperture 71, on the body, also serves to house the safety locking device 76, as seen in Fig. 3.

With respect to claim 7, the spring element 21, biases the locking member against the trigger, see Fig. 1.

With respect to claim 14, the switch is formed with an external cap 69, see Fig. 4.

With respect to claim 13, Roberts shows a canister compartment and a battery compartment separated and fluid tight sealed from each other, as seen in Fig. 2.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin A. Cartagena whose telephone number is (571) 272-4924. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30AM to 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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